Rootenberg Rare Books & Manuscripts Presents:

NATURAL HISTORY 101: A Dozen Old Books to Help you Navigate our Quickly Declining Planet

1. CESALPINO, Andreas. *De plantis libri XVI.* Florence: Georgio Marescotti, 1583. 4to. [xl], 621, [11] pp., including errata. Woodcut printer's device on title and on the colophon, woodcut initials. Full calf, gilt decorations in an antique style, morocco spine label, spine label; minor waterstain to index leaves. Faint contemporary ownership signature at foot of title page. An excellent copy.

First edition of the first "rational system of plant classification" (PMM). Cesalpino's work became the foundation of scientific botany and the first articulation of the modern concept of species. With the knowledge of the existence of a greater number of plants, a method of scientific classification was needed. This era began with Cesalpino, who created his system of classification based upon plant morphology. "He insisted that distinctions among species should be made only according to similarity or dissimilarity of forms, and that 'accidental' attributes, such as medicinal use and habitat, must not be considered; in doing so, he elevated botany to the level of an independent science" (Norman). The first section of this ground-breaking work contains the general system of comparative study, retaining the traditional divisions of trees, shrubs, half-shrubs and herbs, but further sub-dividing them into different categories according to their seed, fruit and flower. The remaining sections describe over fifteen hundred plants, placing them into fifteen classes. Cesalpino focuses on the roots, stems and fruit as the basis for his classification. It is in this taxonomy that the De plantis most decidedly marks an epoch in the history of botany. The effect of this work was enormous, profoundly influencing botanists that followed, including Linnaeus in his famous works on classification, his *Systema naturae* of 1735 and his *Classes plantarum* in 1738. Indeed, Linnaeus' own fully annotated copy of *De plantis* now resides in the library of the Linnean Society.

Cesalpino (1519-1603) was born at Arezzo in Tuscany and studied under Ghini at Pisa, where he graduated in medicine, and thereafter succeeded Aldrovandi as director of the garden at Bologna, in 1555 becoming professor of botany. He later became a professor in Rome and physician to Pope Clement VIII.

Adams, C-20; Arnold Arboretum, p. 147; Cleveland Collections, 122; Dibner 20; *Printing & the Mind of Man*, 97; Hawks, *Pioneers of plant study*, pp.184-187; Morton, *History of botanical science*, pp. 128-140; Norman, 432; Pritzel, 1640; Sparrow, 34; not in the Hunt Catalogue.

$ 25,000.00

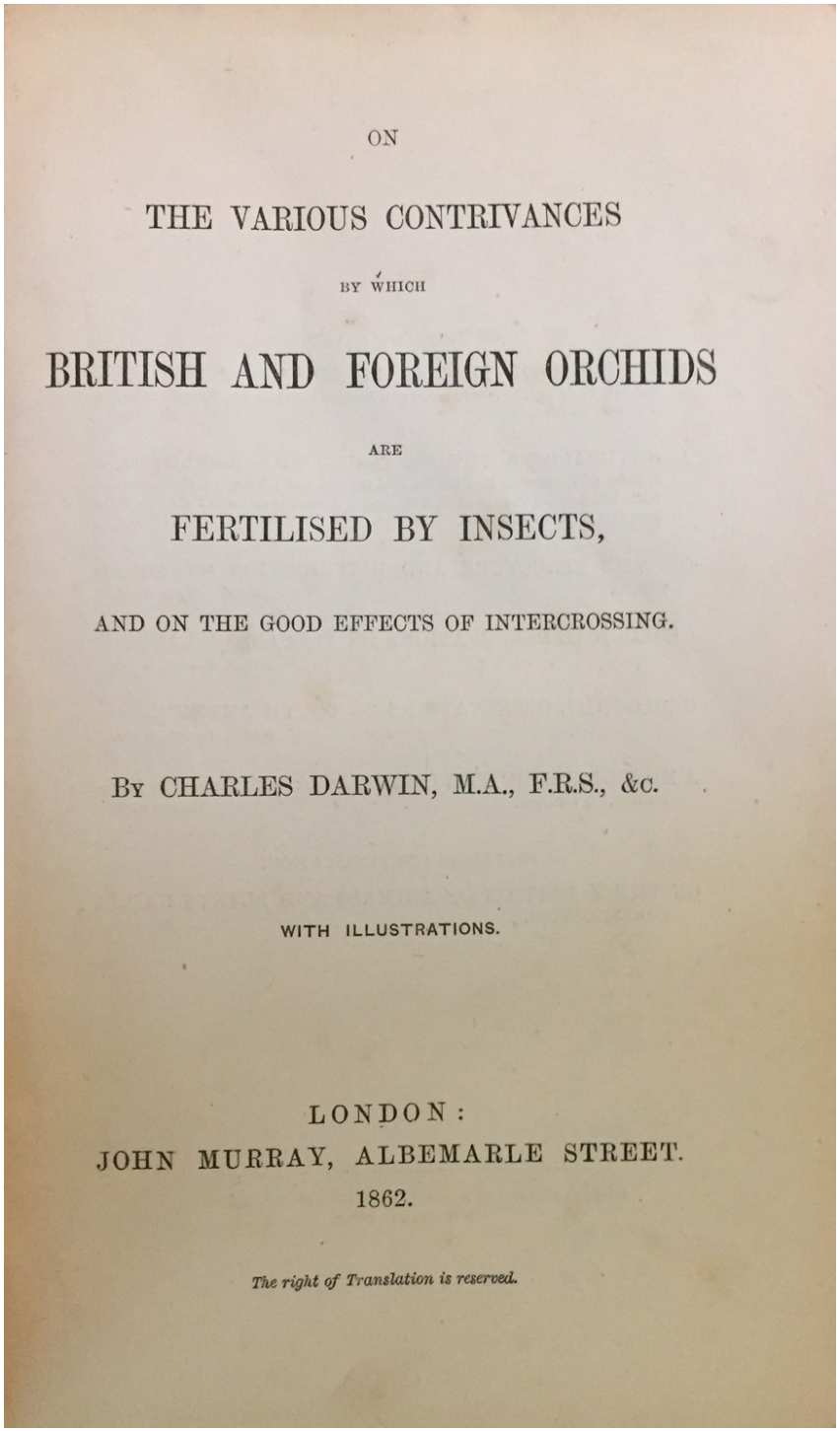
DE PLANTIS LIBRI XVI.

ANDREAE CAESALPINI ARETINI,

Medici clariſsimi, doctiſsimiq; atque Philoſophi celeberrimi, ac ſubtiliſsimi.

AD SERENISSIMVM FRANCISCVM Medicem, Magnum Aetruriæ Ducem.

FLORENTIAE,
Apud Georgium Mareſcottum.
MDLXXXIII.


ON

THE VARIOUS CONTRIVANCES

BY WHICH

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ORCHIDS

ARE

FERTILISED BY INSECTS,

AND ON THE GOOD EFFECTS OF INTERCROSSING.

By CHARLES DARWIN, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1862.

The right of Translation is reserved.

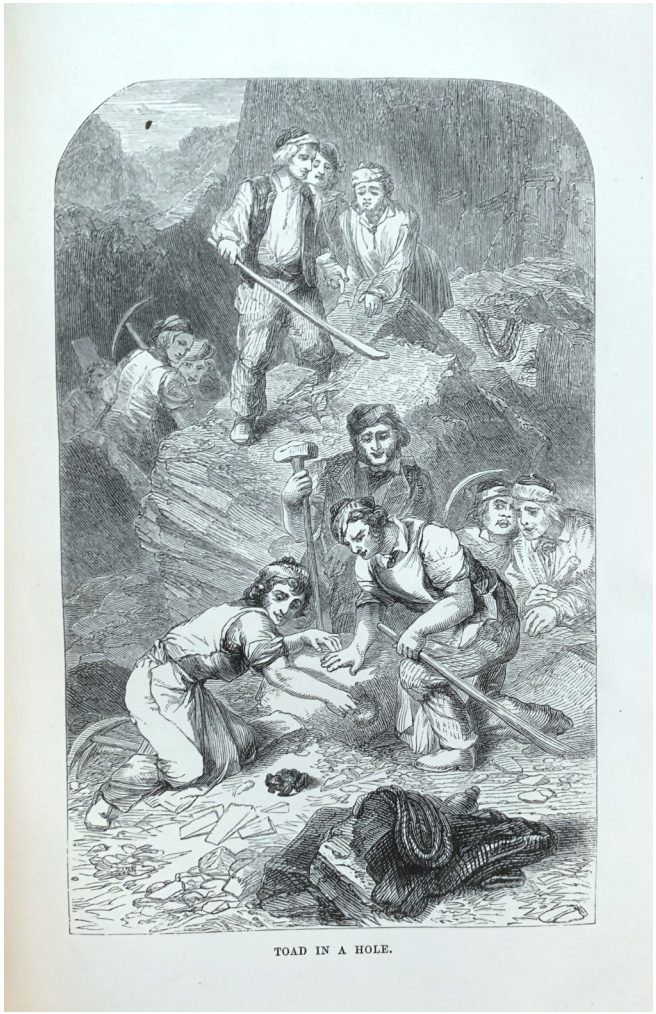
2. DARWIN, Charles. *The various contrivances in which British and foreign orchids are fertilised by insects and on the good effects of intercrossing.* London: John Murray, 1862. 8vo. vi, 365, [1] pp., plus 32 pages publisher's advertisements dated December, 1861. With 1 folding plate and text illustrations. Original publisher's plum cloth with gilt orchid on front cover, rebacked with the original backstrip laid down; interior bright and clean. Modern presentation signature on the front fly-leaf.

First edition, variant a, of Darwin's primary work on plant fertilization. Detailing the relationship between the sexual structure of orchids and the insects that fertilize them, this was the first of three volumes that followed the publication of the *Origin* which contained supporting evidence for the author's theory of natural selection. Darwin concludes that plants are equal to animals in the marvels of their adaptation; for example, he observes that wind-pollinated flowers have no colours; it is only those insect-pollinated varieties that have bright coloured petals and sweet smelling nectars.

Freeman, 800a; Jackson, *Guide to the Literature of Botany*, p. 99. $ 6000.00

3. DARWIN, Sir Francis. "On the power possessed by leaves of placing themselves at right angles to the direction of incident light." In: *The Journal of the Linnean Society,* June 3, Vol. XVIII, No. 112., pp. 420-55. London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer and Williams and Norgate, June 3, 1881. 8vo. 419-473 pp., with 3 plates and 17 woodcuts in text. Original blue printed wrappers, some minor chipping, otherwise a very good unopened copy.

First printing of this extensive article on the phototropism of plants, written by Charles Darwin's son. He expounds upon a topic that his father had discussed on numerous occasions. Francis collaborated with him on the book *On the power of movement in plants,* which was published a year earlier, and this article is an extension of the research done with his father. Darwin (1848-1925) was his father's assistant as well as a botanist in his own right. He was the foreign secretary of the Royal Society, a lecturer in botany at Cambridge, and served as President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He edited, and in 1887 had published *The life and letters of Charles Darwin.*
DSB, III, 581-82. $ 850.00



TOAD IN A HOLE.

4. GOSSE, Philip Henry. *The romance of natural history.* London: James Nisbet & Co., 1861. 8vo. xi, [i], 393 pp., plus leaf of publisher's advertisements. With frontispiece plus 8 full-page plates. Original publisher's cloth, gilt illustration of snake charmer on front cover; an excellent copy.

First edition of the second of Gosse's *Romance* series; the first was published the prior year. Gosse, a great believer in nature and the fanciful, almost magical world found therein, sought to study the natural world in "the poet's way" as he puts it, dealing "not with statistics, but with the emotions of the human mind." He ponders the extinction of various species and reflects on the marvels of nature, including mermaids, the behavior of swallows, the ability of snakes to be "charmed," and treats both worms and sea serpents. *Romance* is the only Gosse work to contain no natural theology imperative. He sought to render into words the poetry of natural studies, the sensory pleasure of the natural world; its immediacy, its democracy, its elemental popularity. His son Edmund described it as the most picturesque, easy and graceful of all his writings. *Romance* was Gosse's best-selling work, with numerous printings and editions, especially in the UK and America.

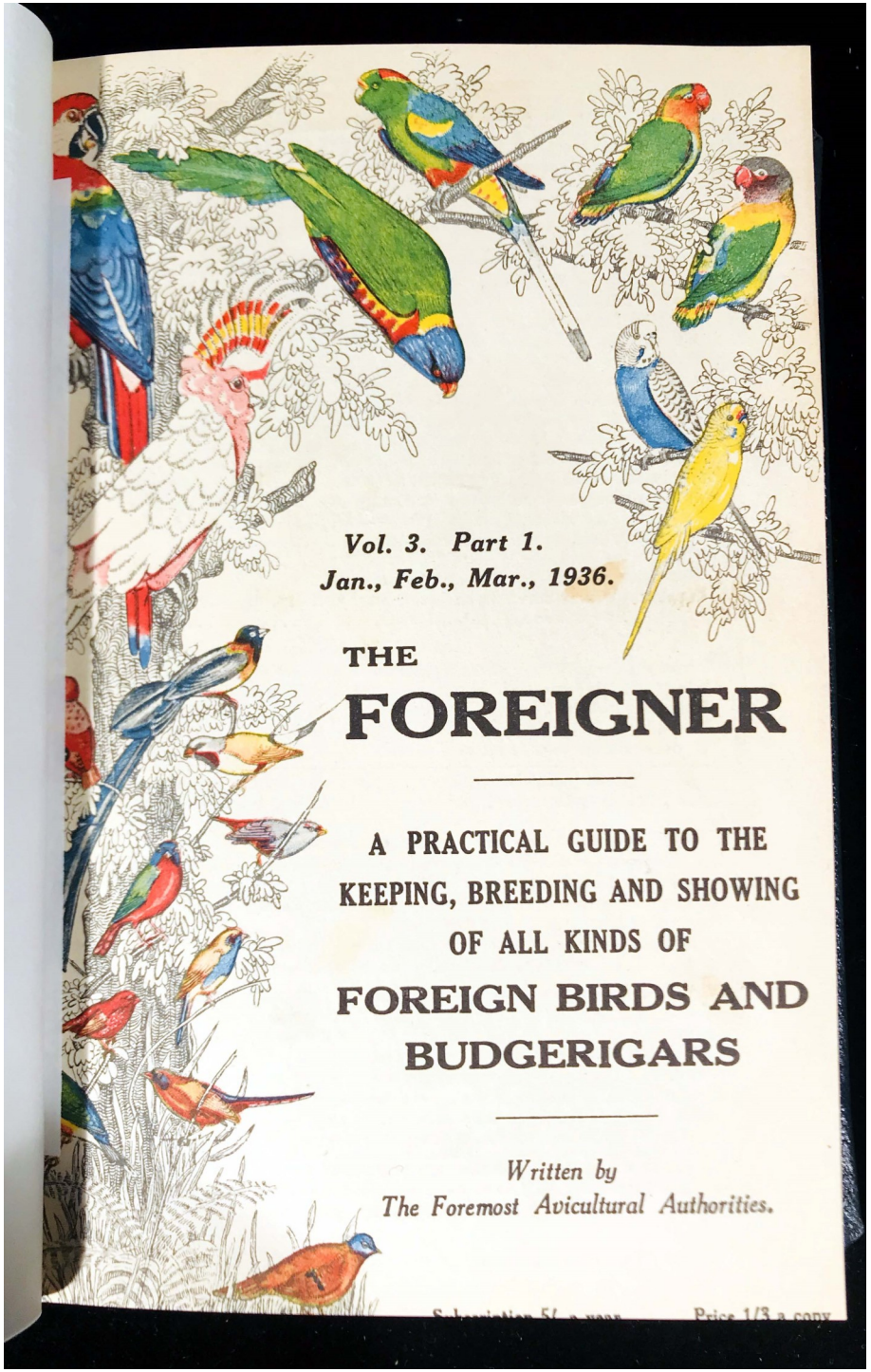
Gosse (1810-88) was a naturalist who had traveled throughout the world making observations and drawings of fauna and flora. His interest in zoology led him to collecting specimens of rare animals of every description. Gosse was obsessed with the issues concerning geologists' calculations of the antiquity of the earth and the arguments regarding the laws of creation.

$ 250.00

5. HILL, John. *The family herbal, or an account of all those English plants, which are remarkable for their virtues, and of the drugs which are produced by vegetables of other countries; with their descriptions and their uses, as proved by experience.* Bungay: C. Brightly and T. Kinnersley, 1812. 8vo. [viii], [xl], 376 pp. With 54 engraved hand-colored plates. Tree calf, re-backed spine label; interior in excellent condition with minimal staining.

Third edition from Brightly and Kinnersley; seventh edition overall. This is a reprint of Hill's popular *The useful family herbal* (1754). Like in the first edition, the text is intended to help the public and provide the reader with a practical knowledge of botany. The printers, Brightly and Kinnersley, added fifty-four leaves of new engravings when they issued their first copy in 1808. The figures, placed throughout the text, are hand-colored and in excellent condition.

Hill (c. 1714–1775) was a physician and actor. In 1739, the second duke of Richmond hired Hill for his apothecary services, and he eventually took up a post at Goodwood House, Richmond's Sussex seat, a hub of learning and culture. It was there Hill took up with the theatrical community, although he continued to collect botanical samples. Although he had many friends in the Royal Society, Hill was never elected to their ranks. Perhaps in retaliation, he printed numerous satires targeting the Society as well as scholarly texts. Hill was an incredibly prolific and popular writer and continued to publish works on subjects ranging from acting, plays, poems, fossils, and more herbals. $ 550.00



6. KESTON FOREIGN BIRD FARM. *The Foreigner. A practical guide to the keeping, breeding and showing of all kinds of foreign birds and budgerigars.* Keston: published by the Keston Foreign Bird Farm, 1935-1939. Five volumes in four, each in four parts. 8vo. (note on collation: pages with roman numerals are advertisements, which are bound both before and after the text within the 4 parts of each of the annual volumes; there are also unpaginated inserted leaves which contain additional advertisements). II: xlviii, 196; III: xxx, 98, [147]-194 (missing part 3 of Volume III, July-September, 1936); IV: [ii], 216, including a general title page; V: xxxvi, 144, [181]-216 (missing part 5 of Volume V, May-June, 1938); VI: xi, [i], 108 pp. With 15 full-page color plates and 61 full-page black and white plates (many photographic), numerous text illustrations. Modern blue morocco, gilt lettering on spine, new endpapers. From the Library of James M. Dolan Jr., former head curator and director of collections at the Zoological Society of San Diego.

First printings of a quarterly publication created and issued by Edward Jeffrey Boosey, founder of the Keston Foreign Farm. The articles focus on breeding budgerigars (parakeets): what to expect when taking these birds at home, how to feed them, how to play with them. The publication generally covers all types of birds, from the Java sparrow to the Californian quail, all birds that Boosey bred himself. We also find a section with letters from readers, and another with curiosities and news from around the world, such as report of missing birds, news about foreign zoos, home remedies for birds' health issues, and a directory of breeders.

Boosey founded his farm near Kent in the UK with Alec Brooksbank in 1927. Keston became famous for its extensive breeding stock of parrots and parakeets and Boosey was regarded as the leading authority in the breeding of macaws. He was Vice-President of the Avicultural Society and a regular contributor to the Society's magazine as well as other avicultural publications.

[Offered with]

Hints on Foreign Birds. Keston: published by the Keston Foreign Bird Farm, 1935. 8vo. 144 pp. With 5 plates. Original color printed wrappers.
This is a condensed version of Volume 2 of *The Foreigner*.

$ 850.00

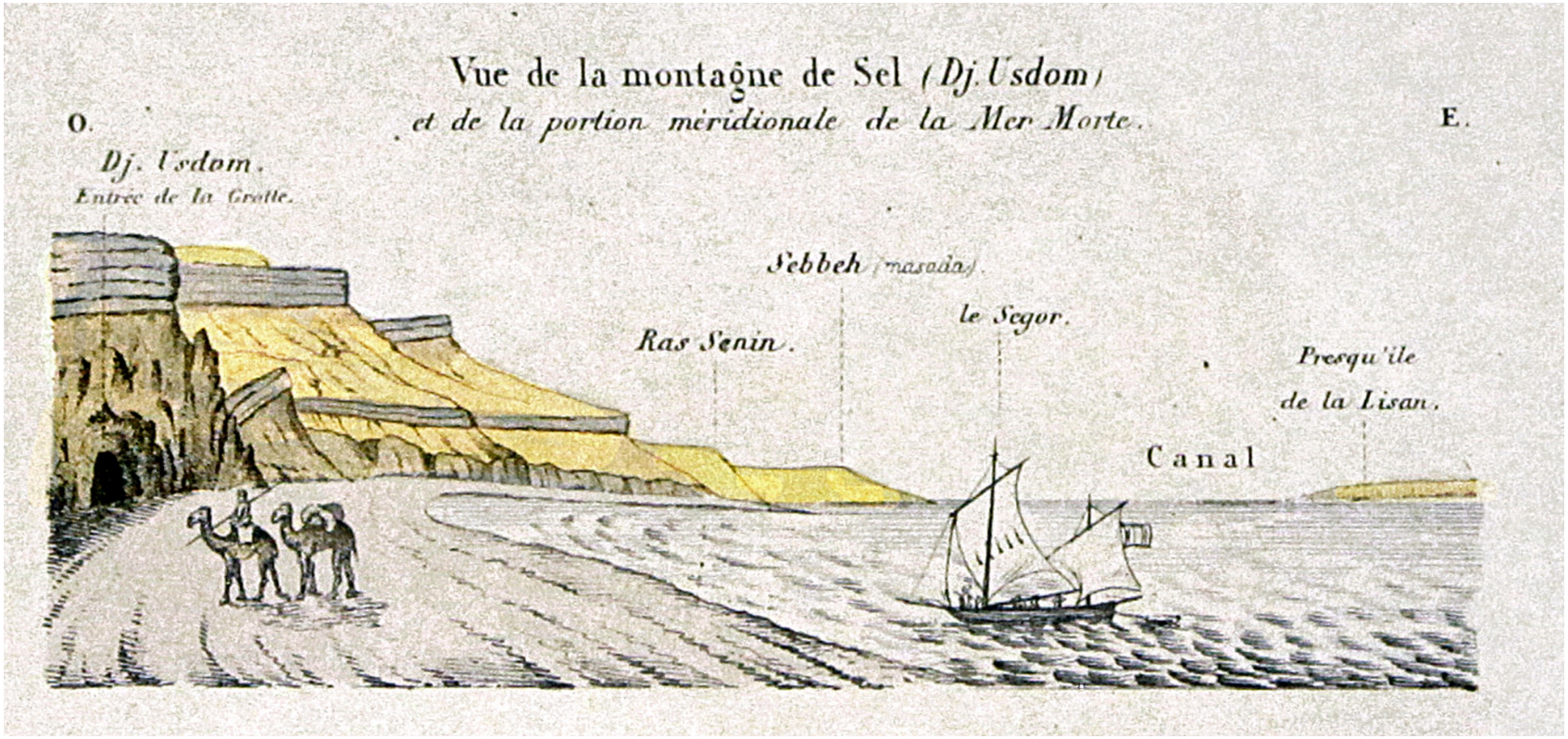
7. LARTET, Louis. *Exploration géologique de la Mer Morte de la Palestine et de l'Idumée.* Paris: Arthus Bertrand, [ca. 1876-1877]. Folio. [iv], vi, 326 pp. With 14 plates (4 double-page and in color) and text illustrations. Later half-morocco over marbled boards; other than some light browning, a very clean interior. Signature of Ph. Robert in pencil on title page.

First and only edition of this extremely rare work on the geology and paleontology of the Dead Sea and its environs, considered the most complete survey of the area's prehistory available at the time (Zittel). Though much of the volume covers geology and animal fossils, a notable chapter is devoted to human pre-history in Syria and Palestine. Lartet treats the subject with caution, however, being well aware of the Biblical significance inextricably linked to the area and the potential risk of ruffling more than a few feathers with his observations (he also wanted to avoid embroiling his patron, the Duke of Luynes, in any vitriol).

In the Epilogue, Lartet addresses the potential conflict between his findings and those interested in a Biblical interpretation, calling it "the most delicate of all subjects" and noting that his research is only concerned with the physical evidence, not theological debate. It is a bit surprising that Lartet did not go further with his argument; he would have been more than qualified to do so, having discovered the first Cro-Magnon skeletons not ten years prior to this publication.

Lartet (1840-1899) was a French geologist and paleontologist. His discovery of the first Cro-Magnon skeletons is considered "one of the most important discoveries in human paleontology" (*DSB*). Louis' father, Edouard Lartet, was also a renowned paleontologist and major contributor to the burgeoning field of human pre-history.

Extremely rare; we could not locate any copies currently on the market or sold at auction. OCLC records only 10 copies in America; *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, VIII, pp. 44-45; Zittel, *History of Geology,* p. 219 $ 12,000.00



8. PARKINSON, James. *Organic remains of a former world. An examination of the mineralized remains of the vegetables and animals of the antediluvian world; generall termed extraneous fossils.* London: J. Robinson, etc., 1804, 1808, 1811. Three volumes. 4to. xii, 471, [8]; xiv, [ii], 286, [6]; xvi, 479, [6] pp. Complete, including all half-titles, errata, index and publisher's advertisements, directions to the binder in Volume II. Frontispiece in each volume plus 50 hand-colored engraved plates. Volume III includes a list of references to the Memoirs of both Cuvier and Lamarck. Contemporary calf, gilt-ruled, spine in 6 compartments with spine label, marbled paste-downs and edges; some offsetting of plates, but overall a wonderful copy.

First edition of one of the earliest systematic works on fossils. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there was very little definitive teaching of geology in Britain. In London the best collection of fossils and minerals was to be found at the Royal Institution, under the charge of Humphry Davy. "The epistolary style (of Parkinson's work) was selected as the most easy of comprehension and the most likely to stimulate popular interest in fossils" (Zittel). Many fossil species are introduced in these pages for the first time, including plant, zoophyte, amphibia and mammals.

The first volume provides a short history of paleontology, an account of the various views about fossils and a discussion of the surface forms and physical constitution of the earth. Peat, coal, and bitumen, among other matter, was described according to their properties, their mode of occurrence, state of preservation, and the changes through which they had passed. The second volume treats corals, sponges, and crinoids, and introduces the Linnean method of nomenclature. Parkinson expands on his own views in the third volume, "where he becomes more and more convinced the numerous fossil species belonged to extinct forms of life." He is convinced, for example, that the Mosaic account of creation could only be accepted in its general intent, that the "days" of the Biblical account in reality indicated very long periods of time in the development of the earth. He here provides an in-depth treatment of the research conducted by Lamarck, Cuvier, and the recently published William Smith. A significant amount of valuable data is added to scientific knowledge through these volumes.

Parkinson (1755-1824) was an important physician (in 1817 he first described a shaking malady now known as Parkinson's Disease) as well as an amateur geologist. "While devoted to fossils as a whole, this work is of considerable interest to the lapidary and gemologist because the author includes much information on silcified woods, amber, and jet, with remarks on their uses in the lapidary arts" (see Sinkankas).

Annals of Science, 6, 1948 ("the appearance of this work was the outstanding event in the history of our scientific knowledge of British fossils"); DSB, X, p. 321; Sinkankas, 4984 (2nd ed.); Ward & Carozzi, 1735; Zittel, *History of geology and Palaeontology to the end of the Nineteenth Century*, 1901, p. 127

$ 4500.00

9. SAY, Thomas. *American entomology, or descriptions of the insects of North America. Illustrated by coloured figures from original drawings executed from nature.* Philadelphia Museum: Samuel Augustus Mitchell, 1824, 1825, 1828. Three volumes in one. 8vo. Extra engraved title page in Volume I. With 54 beautiful hand-colored plates, tissue guards present, each with accompanying text. Indexes follow each volume, and Explanation of terms used in Entomology at the rear. Half morocco and marbled boards, spine in compartments with morocco label; an excellent and very clean copy with the ownership signature of Joseph Sheppard of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia dated 1865 on both the fly-leaf and first title and small stamp of Dr. J. Sheppard of Bridgeton, N.J. at the top of third title.

First edition of the first substantive North American book on insects, important for the author's brilliant observations and his descriptions of generic and specific characteristics. Say's entry into entomology did much to enhance Americans' understanding of the natural world. He was familiar with American and European literature on insects and was a natural taxonomist, showing excellent judgment in selecting the significant features of each species so that his descriptions did not leave taxonomic confusion. The drawings were done either by Say himself or by the Philadelphia artist T.R. Pearl; the engraved title in Volume I was by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. The illustrations are mainly based on observations taken from nature in the course of various expeditions to the South, the Rocky Mountains, the Minnesota River Basin, and Mexico.

Say (1787-1834), a self-taught naturalist, was born in Philadelphia, the son and grandson of physician-apothecaries. In 1819-20, Major Stephen Harriman Long led an expedition to explore the Rocky Mountains and the tributaries of the Missouri River with Say as zoologist. Later, he served as chief zoologist in Long's expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, where he described many important economic insects which now bear his name. He developed a friendship with William Maclure, president of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, who founded the utopian community at New Harmony, Indiana, to which Say moved in 1825. His other major work was *American conchology* (1830-34).

DSB, XII, pp. 132-33; Nissen, ZBI, 3612; Sabin, 77370. $ 5000.00

Drawn by T.R.Peale.

40

Engraved by C.Tiebout.

10. SCHUMANN, Karl & GÜRKE, Max. *Blühende Kakteen (Iconographia Cactacearum).* Neudamm: J. Neumann, 1904–1921. Three volumes. 4to. [xiv], [240], [iv]; [xii], [240], [iv]; [vii], [232] pp. With 176 chromolithograph plates (4 double). Original cloth, title in gilt on cover, some wear to spines; tissue covers with marginal tears, several signatures loose in Volume III, Volumes I and II signed on half-title by previous owner and dated 1916. Generally in very fine condition.

First edition, from the original forty-five parts, and one of the most beautiful works on cacti. With vibrant full-page coloured plates, printed from intricate images drawn by Toni Gürke, wife of the editor, and hand-finished. A comprehensive look at almost two hundred flowering cactus species, with a strong representation of plants from Central and South America. This three volume work was presented by the German Cactus Society, drawing together prints they had made over the course of 21 years. The complete set is rarely available.

Schumann (1851-1904) received his doctorate in botany from the University of Breslau. Upon publication in 1883 of his book on cinnamon, *Kritische untersuchungen über die zimtlander*, he was invited to become curator of the Berlin Botanical Museum. He also taught botany at the University of Berlin and, in 1892, founded and served as first chairman of the German Cactus Society (Deutsche Kakteen-Gasellschaft). He made strong contributions to the field of botanical morphology and is credited with describing hundreds (possibly thousands) of new species. Three botanical genera and several cactus species have been named after him.

Botanical Gazette, 1904; *Catalogue of the Arnold Arboretum*, p. 639; Nissen, 1818. $ 12,000.00

11. SCLATER, P.L. *"Report on the birds collected during the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger in the years 1873-1876." From The voyage of the H.M.S. Challenger, Zoology, Vol. II, Part VIII - Report on birds.* London: [printed for H.M.S.O., sold by Longmans & Co and others, 1881]. 4to. viii, 166 pp. With 30 hand-colored lithographed plates by J. Smit. Half-morocco and marbled boards, recent endpapers; with the exception of very minor discoloration to the half-title, an absolutely exquisite copy with bright and clean plates.

First separate printing. The complete ornithological report, with excellent illustrations, on the nearly 900 specimens collected by the expedition. "The collection [of birds] was formed under the superintendence of Mr. John Murray, one of the naturalists of the Expedition, and the skins were chiefly prepared by Mr. Frederick Pearcey, who accompanied the vessel as taxidermist" (introduction). $ 5500.00

DARWINISM

AN EXPOSITION OF THE

THEORY OF NATURAL SELECTION

WITH SOME OF ITS APPLICATIONS

BY

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

LL.D., F.L.S., ETC.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

AND NEW YORK

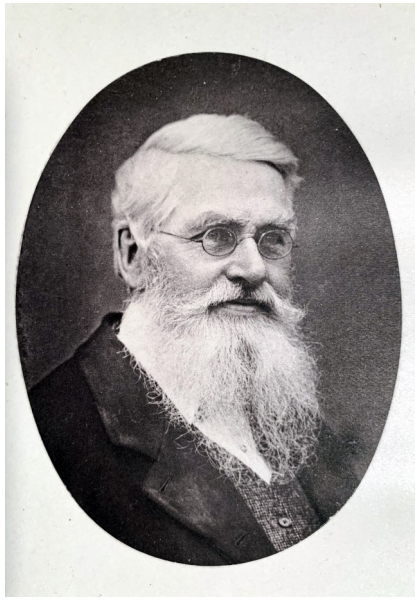
1889

12. WALLACE, Alfred Russel. *Darwinism, an exposition of the theory of natural selection with some of its applications.* London: Macmillan and Co., 1890. 8vo. xvi, 494 pp., plus leaf of publisher's advertisements. Heliotype frontispiece portrait of author, 1 hand-colored folding map, text illustrations and diagrams. Original green cloth, a bit rubbed; interior very good with the exception of the first signature being a bit loose.

Second edition of Wallace's treatise on the theory of natural selection. This is Wallace's restatement of the origin of species on the same general lines as were adopted by Darwin, but from the standpoint reached after nearly thirty years of discussion and with many new facts and the advocacy of many new as well as old theories. Notwithstanding the care taken to point out the differences between his and Darwin's theory, Wallace claims for this book "the position of being the advocate of pure Darwinism."

DSB, XIV, pp. 133-40; Freeman, p. 185; see *Printing & the Mind of Man*, 344(n)

$ 250.00



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